

Cleves School Arts Newsletter

Autumn Term 2025

Welcome to our first Arts Newsletter which celebrates all art forms. We are used to the music newsletters at Cleves and you will find music towards the end of our newsletter but it is our aim to highlight all the other art forms as well in a termly newsletter. As things grow, possibly this newsletter will have to be half-termly - we can only hope!

Art

Year 4 have been creating some incredible Nativity inspired art in the last couple of weeks and Ms Robjohn wanted to celebrate some from her class. Photos are below - congratulations to all the children who spent the many hours creating and crafting.



Year 3 have been sewing and creating their own Christmas stockings which I think you will agree, look amazing! Here are 3M's stockings hanging up in their classroom - well done Year 3 and let's hope they might get filled up at some point soon!



Drama

We are expanding our celebrated arts forms to include Drama. We understand that lots of children take part in Theatre Works at Cleves and other groups outside of school but we are hopefully going to be starting some lunchtime drama clubs in the New Year. Ms Dawson will be sharing more information about this in due course so please watch this space.

Design & Technology

Year 3 and Year 4 have been busy sewing and creating their canvas bags. We know that lots of thought and effort have been put into their designs. The children are working towards their final pieces and are very proud of the work they have done! Here are some photos of 4E working away to finish them before the end of term - well done 4E!



Music

Sing Our Values Assembly

Mr. Kilhams ran an assembly before half term which had all our school choirs perform a song linking to our school values and we also had the first performance of the year from our school orchestra to showcase "perseverance" and "high aspirations". Despite only having had 4 or 5 sessions, you would never have known it - all choirs and the orchestra performed with real passion. Well done all!

Tuning Up Concerts

Congratulations to all the classes who took part in the Tuning Up concerts this half term. They were hugely successful and enjoyed by parents. It's very impressive to see how much the children have learnt over the past term. Well done!

Orchestra

Our School Orchestra keeps going from strength to strength and it has never been bigger than it currently is! What is truly amazing is that we have all sections of the traditional orchestra represented; Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion. Although the orchestra didn't perform in the Christmas Concerts this year, they have been learning the Pirates of the Caribbean theme tune and have performed it in an assembly. Mr. Kilhams has taken requests for their next piece of music which range from the Sponge Bob Square Pants theme tune to Vivaldi so Mr. Kilhams has some thinking to do. Here they are at their last session of the term.



The Calypso Crew

The Year 4, 5 & 6 Calypso Crew have been working hard towards their end of term festive performances. They've paid particular attention to dynamics and tonal quality this term. A big well done to all the new members who have started so brilliantly. Lizzie would like to thank all the children for their hard work and dedication and a special thank you to all the parents for being so supportive.

St. Mary's Winter Fayre Performance

Our wonderful Young Voices Choir took to the stage to perform their Young Voices 2026 music for the first time as a practice run for the real thing in January! They performed brilliantly and performed all the medleys that they will have to sing for Young Voices. Well done to all who performed, you helped St. Mary's Church raise £6000 overall for their Winter Fayre, a record amount for them. A special thank you to Mr. Lockyer and Ms. Farshadfar who supported them at the church.



Care Home Concerts

14 children from Year 5 and Year 6 took part in a mini “Care Home Tour” in early December where they performed Christmas favourites for the residents at three local care homes. They performed the same concert three times which saw Elise and Lucy perform their own composition for the first time titled “Our Values” and the ukulele group accompanied singers from the senior choir for some of the songs. One resident commented on their performance, “The children were so confident... I loved their choice of songs!” and another resident said, “When are they coming back??” It was so nice to get out in the community and perform to people that may not have experienced a Christmas Concert otherwise. The children were exceptional and showed real professionalism and respect when performing. A special thank you to Ms. Farshadfar who helped with the children and Richard for driving the children on their tour around Elmbridge!





Year 3 & 4 Nativity

Our Year 3s and Year 4s told the story of the nativity through songs and poems in St. Mary's Church. For both nights there wasn't a spare place in the church and it is likely that the children were performing to their biggest audiences of their lifetimes so to see such confidence and enjoyment was fantastic. Every class had a chance to showcase their talent and we also had performances from our wonderful handbell group and our Year 3 Training Choir and Year 4 Junior Choir. All the children sang their hearts out and really couldn't have performed better, so well done to all.

Year 5 & 6 Christmas Concerts

For our Year 5 & 6 Christmas performances the children perform popular songs and poems or readings from well known Christmas stories. This gives us a different perspective of Christmas to our lower school performances but just as enjoyable. Both year groups performed brilliantly! We also had special performances from our ukulele group, our senior choir and the steel pan groups. We even had handbell performers ringing bells and singing at the same time, they really had something for everyone.

It is fantastic that every child in the school will have performed in one of our Christmas Concerts over the last few weeks. A big thank you to all the staff for making this possible with the extra rehearsals and preparing them so well.

Weybridge Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert

Our Year 4 Junior Choir took part in Weybridge MVC's Christmas Concert. This is a choir that is over 100 years old and has a fantastic reputation in the local and not-so-local area. The children, however, stole the show! They performed three songs on their own to an audience of 350 people with ease! They also joined forces with St. James' School Choir and Weybridge MVC for a big finale, Sleigh Ride! Well done to all the children who took part, they showed real kindness when others were performing and behaved

beautifully throughout a very long concert. A special thank you to Mrs. Strange for helping organise the children last minute, your help was most appreciated. Thank you to all the parents who stayed and helped as well and looked after the children. I think those that were there will agree that it was a real highlight of the term for the Junior Choir. This concert helped raise over £1000 for local charity, Shooting Star Children's Hospices. There are some photos below:



Walton Voices Family Christmas Concert

Our Senior Choir has built a really great friendship with local choir, Walton Voices and for the past few years have been performing with them twice a year! This Christmas they were asked to perform in their Family Christmas Concert at St. Mary's Church Oatlands. The children, once again, stole the show with their performance and learnt a piece specially for this concert called A Christmas Feast! This saw them pop Christmas Crackers, wave flags and play any percussion instrument they could get their hands on basically. Children even brought in wooden spoons to stir their cake ingredients in one of the songs and looked amazing with their sprinkle of Christmas. It was really great fun and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A special well done to the handbell ringers for singing and playing handbells at the same time, a first for the school! This helped raise over £500 for the charity, Stripey Stork. A charity

that supports families in financial hardship and makes sure every child receives a present at Christmas. Some great photos below:



Music Exams Success!

A huge well done to all children who took exams on their instruments this past term. As we develop the newsletters it would be nice to name these children and their achievements here each term but remember you can always send the news to their class teacher and Ms Holland who will mention it on the school radio assembly. For now, a huge well done to all the children who got good news this term. I've also heard of some children receiving music scholarships to their secondary schools which is so great to hear. Your hard work and commitment shows real perseverance, others notice this and you inspire younger children setting out on their musical journeys as well.

I would like to thank all the staff at Cleves for their hard work this term on anything arts related, particularly preparing their classes for their end of term performances. I would also like to thank all the parents for ensuring they are well rehearsed, well rested and prepared for the million or so different performances they have had over the past few weeks. Some children have taken part in all of the school Christmas Concerts and multiple outside school performances, you need a personal assistant just to manage the diaries of these children so a huge thank you to all of you for making this all possible.

All that is left to say is to wish you all an incredibly musical and arty Christmas and I look forward to another term of music making! I will leave you with Megan's Christmas joke from 5N:

"What is the best Christmas present you can receive...?"

"A broken drum... you just can't beat it!"

All the very best,
Johnny Kilhams
Music Specialist

